In the claims:

1. (previously presented) Apparatus for use in a wireless network comprising:

a device that is capable of automatically selecting one of a plurality of radio frequency channels for communication with other devices, wherein the selection of a radio frequency channel is performed such that radio frequency interference with other devices is reduced, wherein prior to utilizing the selected channel for normal communications the selection of a radio frequency channel is communicated on the selected channel to other devices via a message indicative of an intent to utilize the selected channel.

2. (previously presented) Apparatus operable to select an operating channel in a wireless network comprising:

circuitry operable to scan each of a plurality of radio frequency channels during a scan interval for indication of utilization of ones of the channels;

circuitry operable to receive messages on the plurality of radio frequency channels during the scan interval;

memory operable to maintain a channel map having an entry for each of the plurality of radio frequency channels, and if one or more messages was received on a channel, the corresponding entry further including a device ID for at least one of the devices that sent a message on the channel;

circuitry operable to select a channel from the channel map based at least in-part on whether an indication of utilization of the selected channel was detected;

circuitry operable to transmit messages on the selected channel during a claim interval, at least one message indicative of an intent to utilize the selected channel;

circuitry operable to monitor messages on the selected channel during the claim interval for a message from another device indicative of an intent to utilize the selected channel; and

circuitry operable to ascertain whether the wireless device should commence communications with other devices on the selected channel based upon characteristics of any messages received on the channel.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the logic for maintaining a channel map further stores a power level for each device ID for each entry in the channel map, and wherein the logic for selecting a channel from the channel map selects a channel having either no device ID or a device ID that has the lowest stored power level.